

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

Attached are ten replacement sheets of formal drawings which replace the originally-filed drawings. The attachment sheets include each of FIGS. 1-12.

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Attachment: Ten (10) replacement sheets

**REMARKS/ARGUMENT**

Claims 1-5, 10, 12-14, 16-23 and 25-29 were previously pending in this Application. Claim 28 was allowed. Claim 4 was objected-to. Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 10, 12-14, 16-23, 25-27 and 29 were rejected.

5            Claims 2, 4, 7, 13, 14, 16-20 and 29 are hereby canceled, leaving claims 1, 3, 5, 10, 12, 21-23 and 25-28 pending. Of the pending claims, claims 1, 10, 12, 21, 22 and 23 are hereby amended. (The dependencies of dependent claims 10, 12 and 21-23 were amended to depend from allowable claims, as below.) All of the claims are allowable because they all contain allowable subject matter as indicated by the  
10 Examiner and as pointed out below.

Applicant would like to take this opportunity to thank Examiner William Joseph Carter for the opportunity to discuss aspects of the claimed invention with Applicant's undersigned representative in a telephone conversation that took place on August 21, 2006.

15    I.    **Drawings**

Responsive to the comments regarding the drawings in the Office Action, Applicant hereby submits formal drawings for each of FIGS. 1-12. Ten replacement sheets are attached hereto. Applicant submits that the formal drawings comply with the formal requirements of MPEP and 37 CFR. The drawings contain no substantive  
20 changes.

II.    **Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating, on page 7 of the Office Action, that claim 28 is allowed. Pending dependent claims 10, 21, 22 and 23 have been amended to change their dependency to claim 28. Because they depend from allowed claim 28,  
25 each of claims 10, 21, 22 and 23 is therefore also allowable.

Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating, on page 7, last paragraph, that claim 4 was objected-to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Dependent claim 4 had previously depended directly from claim 1. The features of previously-  
5 pending claims 1 and 4 have been combined by way of an amendment adding the features of previous claim 4, to claim 1. Claim 4 has been cancelled. Amended independent claim 1 is therefore in allowable form. Claims 3, 5, 12, 25, 26 and 27 each depend, directly or indirectly, from allowable independent claim 1 and therefore claims 3, 5, 12 and 25-27 are also allowable.

10 **III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103**

The claim rejections under these sections are obviated for the following reasons:

\*Pending claims 1, 3, 5, 10, 12, 21-23 and 25-28 are allowable for containing allowable subject matter, as above.

15 \*Claims 2, 4, 7, 13, 14, 16-20 and 29 are cancelled. Claims 2, 4, 7, 13, 14, 16-20 and 29 are cancelled without prejudice and Applicant thus retains the right to file these claims in a future divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 are thereby obviated.

**CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing, each of pending claims 1, 3, 5, 10, 12, 21-23 and 25-28 is in allowable form and the application therefore is conditioned for allowance, which action is respectfully and expeditiously requested.

5           Although no fee is believed due, the Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any excess payment that may be associated with this communication, to Deposit Account 04-1679.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 19, 2006

  
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Attachment: Ten (10) replacement sheets

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